

Tempe Today



a community newsletter

volume 24 ~ Issue 5 May 2008



Kid Zone enrolling for summer and fall programs

The City of Tempe's award-winning Kid Zone Enrichment Program has increased its capacity and is now enrolling students for its summer and fall sessions. The popular 23-yearold program no longer has a waiting because of capacity. A limited number of scholarships are available for families who financially qualify. Kid Zone provides high-quality morning and afternoon care at 14 Tempe Elementary School District schools and five Kyrene Elementary School District schools. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade attend Kid Zone at their own school; they are offered snacks, homework help and free enrichment classes in topics such as foreign languages, soccer, nutrition and life skills.

"We are thrilled that Kid Zone is now more accessible to those who want to participate," said Kid Zone Program Administrator Naomi Farrell. "Children greatly benefit from being physically and mentally engaged before and after school, and Kid Zone excels at providing that care."

For more information about the program, visit www.tempe.gov/kidzone or call 480-350-5400



Members of the Clark Park Neighborhood Association were honored at the City of Tempe Neighborhood Workshop and Awards. Those who were in attendance are pictured in the front row (I to r): Josie Sanchez, Amparo Ortega, Tommy McCaw, Rita McCaw, Lucia Sandoval, LyleHall, Raul Sandoval, Midge Hall, Helen Standage, Phyllis Swanson, Dolores Roach, Lois Robertson and Gary Swanson. Back row (I to r): Councilmember Hut Hutson, Councilmember Mark Mitchell, Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Mayor Hugh Hallman and Councilmember Shana Ellis.

Tempe honors residents with Neighbor of the Year awards

The City of Tempe awarded 44 dedicated residents with Neighbor of the Year awards during the annual Neighborhood Workshop and Awards on April 5 at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center. Awards were given to two groups of residents and eight individual winners. Jim Joy, former chair of the Camelot Village Neighborhood Association, won the prestigious Chuck Malpede Neighbor of the Year Award. Residents attended workshops at the free, half-day event, and the Tempe City Council presented awards to those who have distinguished themselves through service to the community. Residents who received awards are:

Betty Ackworth	Chad Justus	Lisa Roach
Gene Andres	Nikki Justus	Lois Robertson
Donald and Beulah	Jim Lemmon	Josie Sanchez
Brower	Agipina Lopez	Raul and Lucia Sandoval
William Byrne	Wanda Majeski	Kristin Shaeffer
Mary Campoy	Gail Majors	Gregg Smith
Robert Crawford	Tom and Rita McCaw	Helen Standage
Mary Wolf Francis	Laura Mello	Alyson and Clem Star
Frances Garcia	Stanley Nicpon	Phyllis Swanson
Lyle and Mildred Hall	Amparo Ortega	Darlene Tussing
Dorothy Hausman	Jon and Eva Picone	Trent Tussing
Jim Joy	Anne Pittman	Arthur and Mary Wearne
Bill Justus	Dolores Roach	

For information on the city's work with neighborhoods, visit www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods.

New air quality measures

The City of Tempe has adopted new state regulations relating to air quality. The Tempe City Council voted April 3 to change city ordinance relating to air quality, an action required by state law. All Arizona communities are required to adopt the new state regulations, which were signed into law last year by Gov. Janet Napolitano. The Maricopa County Air Quality Department will enforce the new rules. Call 602-372-2703 or visit www.maricopa.gov/aq to report a violation. According to the new ordinance:

- Landscape debris may not be blown into a public roadway.
- Leaf blowers may not be used on bare, native soil only "stabilized" surfaces such as grass, concrete, asphalt, decomposed granite.
- Driving and parking on unstabilized surfaces is prohibited. This includes riding off-road vehicles or ATVs, except on private property. It also includes vehicles for sale that are parked on dirt shoulders and unpaved block corners. Alleys are excluded from the regulation.
- Wood burning in indoor residential fireplaces and in outdoor fire pits and fire places on high pollution advisory days is prohibited. This includes residences and businesses, and it includes fire pits in city parks.
- If the ground of a vacant lot has been disturbed, property owners must control dust by installing landscaping, ensuring that the area is watered or other measures.

Visit www.tempe.gov/airquality for more information on the provisions of state law that now apply to Tempe.

City seeks input on bus service changes

The City of Tempe Transportation Division, Tempe in Motion, will hold a public hearing to gather feedback from residents on proposed bus service changes scheduled to occur in December. The hearing will be June 10, at 7:30 a.m., at Hatton Hall, 34 E. Seventh St. Residents who are unable to attend the public hearing can visit www.tempe.gov/tim to fill out a comment form or submit written comments to Tempe in Motion, P.O. Box 5002, Tempe, AZ, 85280. Affected routes may include Red Line, 1, 30, 65, 66, 76, 81, Flash, and Orbit Mercury, Earth and Mars. Descriptions of the route changes will be available online starting May 27. Public comment will be taken from May 27 to June 24. For more information, call 480-350-2775.

Check out Tempe Today online

www.tempe.gov/tempetoday

Light rail safety

METRO is testing light rail vehicles in Tempe this spring and summer, from 48th and Washington streets, to just east of the Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe. Trains also are expected to run further east to Apache Boulevard later this summer.

Each vehicle in the METRO fleet must be checked to ensure it meets safety and performance specifications. The rail, signals, power system and all other components are also tested to ensure quality performance. Light rail is an extremely quiet mode of transport, so residents and visitors are encouraged to:

- Listen for bells and look for flashing train headlights.
- Use the crosswalk and obey all signals.
- Don't stop your car or bike on the tracks.
- Obey the traffic signals; turn left across tracks only with a green arrow
- No biking, walking or skateboarding in the trackway.

For more information, visit www.metrolightrail.org/safety.

Tempe tackles graffiti

Tempe is committed to removing graffiti as soon as possible, so residents and businesses are asked to immediately paint over any graffiti on their property. According to city code, property owners are responsible for painting over graffiti on private property within 10 days. Graffiti on public property can be reported to the city's graffiti hotline at 480-350-8384 or www.tempe.gov/graffiti and the city's Street Maintenance division will paint over it, usually within 24 hours. If you are witnessing graffiti being painted, call the Tempe Police non-emergency number at 480-350-8311.

Ready to go into Orbit?

The Orbit neighborhood circulator system uses small mini-buses to serve residential areas and connect them to local destinations such as downtown Tempe, Arizona State University, shopping areas, other neighborhoods, major bus and future light rail routes, schools and multigenerational centers. Tempe currently operates five Orbit routes – Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter, which run every 15 minutes, seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. These free routes provide the perfect opportunity for getting out and about in Tempe.

Schedules for Orbit Earth and Jupiter changed April 28. Orbit is funded through the 1996 transit tax. For more information and updated schedules, call 480-350-2775 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim.



César E. Chávez Coloring Contest

Frank Elementary School students were honored at the April 3 Tempe City Council meeting for their entries in the city's third annual César E. Chávez Coloring Contest. The students were asked to draw two pictures of Chavez serving others and one depicted their future calling. Winners were: Anthony Vargas and Mireya Miranda (kindergarten); Daniella Peinado and Abraham Andres (first grade); Mariah Pena and Jaime Tavena (second grade); Patricia Espuma and Adrian Ruiz (third grade); Lizeth Medrano and Alejandro Lope (fourth grade); and Nina Gascar and Robert Mathis (fifth grade). The aim of the contest is to educate students about the life of Chávez and their own public service callings.

Photo enforcement in Tempe

Tempe is expanding its photo enforcement program in an effort to reduce speeding and collisions citywide. New locations for speed and red light cameras were selected based on information and data, such as collision and speeding data, from the city's Traffic Engineering division, the Tempe Police Department and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Three fixed cameras have been placed in Tempe to capture speeding violations. The locations are: 600 S. Priest Drive (southbound); 500 S. Rural Road (southbound); and 200 S. Rural Road (northbound).

There are currently six intersection cameras in Tempe, with one more location to be determined. The cameras capture occurrences of drivers running red lights, as well as speeding through green lights, starting at 11 mph over the speed limit. The locations of the intersection cameras are:

- Southern and Mill avenues
- McClintock Drive and Guadalupe Road
- 48th Street and Broadway Road
- · Rural and Warner roads
- · Rural Road and University Drive
- McClintock Drive and Rio Salado Parkway

Two mobile speed vans are deployed at 25 or more locations throughout the city. The speed vans have been in use by the city for the last 10 years in places with high incidents of collisions and speeding violations.

"Studies show that where photo enforcement is used, there is a 30 percent reduction in collisions," said Tempe Police Sgt. John Ferrin.



University Park on National Register

The City of Tempe celebrates its first neighborhood placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the official listing of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Tempe's University Park neighborhood was approved and placed on the register Feb. 20.

University Park is an 80-acre neighborhood built in the 1940s and 1950s, just south of Arizona State University and downtown Tempe. Bordered by McAllister and Mill avenues on the east and west, and Apache Boulevard and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the north and south, the district encompasses 160 properties. including single-family homes, a duplex, three churches and the George Ditch. The neighborhood was developed throughout the post-World War II housing boom, and was mostly built-out by 1957. Today, University Park is a lattice of tree-lined streets and ranch-style houses, surrounded by some of Tempe's busiest transportation corridors and a bustling university.

"Historic preservation is not so much about today, as much as it about the integral elements within our community we collectively value enough to ensure they are available for future generations," said Community Development and Historic Preservation Office Planner E. Hunter Hansen. "This group of neighbors recognized the neighborhood's inherent value, and took the initiative to publically and formally honor this unique historic and cultural resource."

University Park property owners may be eligible for a state property tax benefit. Residents with questions about remodeling or landscaping plans should contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 602-542-4009, or visit the office at 1300 W. Washington St., in Phoenix.

The application for placement on the National Register was funded through a City of Tempe neighborhood grant.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The May/June schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

May 1, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session 7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

May 15, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session 7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

May 22, 2008

1 p.m., Special Budget Review Session

June 5, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session 7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

June 19, 2008

Special Budget Review Session (Adoption of Property Tax) – 3 p.m.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor
Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor
P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember
Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember
Shana Ellis, Councilmember
Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember
Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Charlie Meyer, City Manager

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To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

City of Tempe 31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281 www.tempe.gov

News you can use

Let's Talk Tempe to discuss graffiti and alleys

Tempe residents are invited to be part of the live audience at the taping of Let's Talk Tempe on Tuesday, May 27, at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave. Light refreshments are served at 7 a.m., with the program taping from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Two issues that Mayor Hugh Hallman and the City Council have designated as top priorities will be covered: "Stopping Graffiti in Tempe" and "Cleaning Up Our Alleys." Representatives from the city's Public Works and Police departments will talk with Mayor Hallman about how the city is addressing these issues. The resulting episode of Let's Talk Tempe will air on Tempe 11 throughout June.

Tempe City Council to discuss, vote on budget

The City of Tempe 2008-2009 budget process is underway. The City Council will meet in Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St., on these dates to discuss and/or vote on aspects of the budget:

May 22, 1 p.m. – Adoption of tentative budget. Public hearing and final adoption of Capital Improvement Program.

June 5, 7:30 p.m. – Final budget adoption. First public hearing for property tax ordinance.

June 19, 3 p.m. – Final property tax adoption.

Meeting dates are subject to change. To confirm a meeting before attending, visit www.tempe.gov/clerk and click on "City Council Meetings."

Draining a pool or spa

Water from swimming pools and spas contains chemicals and properties that, when drained to city rights-of-way, can have negative impacts on plant and aquatic life. The City of Tempe recommends that all discharge water be kept on your property and used for landscape irrigation or be allowed to percolate into the ground. This may require discharging intermittently for several days if you have limited landscape area to prevent runoff onto the right-of-way or onto a neighbor's property. If water from spas, pools, and fountains must be discharged into the street or storm water system, a permit must be obtained at least 48 hours prior to discharge. To obtain a permit, call 480-350-8521 or visit www.tempe.gov/engineeering/docs/Pool_permit.htm. For more information or to report illicit discharges to storm drains, call 480-350-2811 or visit www.tempe.gov/env/stormwater.htm.

Warm weather increases risk of West Nile Virus

Although West Nile Virus (WNV) can be transmitted all year long, it increases during the summer and fall months. WNV is most often spread to humans and animals by infected mosquitoes. It affects the central nervous system, causing illness that can last weeks or just a few days. For information on symptoms of WNV and ways to prevent mosquito bites and mosquito proliferation, visit www.maricopa.gov/wnv.

Adult Summer Reading Program at Tempe Public Library

This summer, the Tempe Public Library will launch its first-ever Adult Summer Reading Program to encourage adults to go beyond hardcopy books and explore audio books, electronic books, mp3, digital library videos and more. The program runs from May 27 through July 29, at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. The first 200 people who sign up will receive a free bag filled with goodies. Prizes include an iPod, a Tempe Marketplace gift card, golf tickets, movie passes and more. For more information or to sign up, visit the Adult Reference Desk on the main floor of the library, or call 480-350-5511.

Tickets now available for Tempe's July 4th celebration

Tickets for the CBS 5 July 4th Tempe Town Lake Festival, the Valley's premier Independence Day celebration, are now available at www.tempe4th.com. Tickets will be available at Fry's and Fry's Marketplace locations for \$6 from June 4 through July 4 at noon. For more information, call 480-350-5189 or visit www.tempe4th.com.